

# YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

<b>Title:</b> Communicable and Contagious Diseases and Infection Control Program <b>Next Annual Review Date:</b> 05/07/2011	<b>Type:</b> B. Classification, Sentencing and Service Functions <b>Sub Type:</b> 6. Medical/Mental Health <b>Number:</b> B.6.2
	<b>Page 1 of 9</b>
<b>References:</b> ACA Standards 2-CO-4E-01 (Administration of Correctional Agencies), 4-JCF-4C-22 (Performance-Based Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities); YS Policy B.6.1 "Health Care"; OJJ/LSUHSC JJP Policies B.6.1 J/HC-IC 01-02, 02-02, 03-02, 04-02, 04.5-02, 05-02, and 06-02; La. R.S. 15:739	
<b>Approved By:</b> Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary	<b>Date of Approval:</b> 05/07/2010

## I. AUTHORITY:

Deputy Secretary of Youth Services as contained in La. R.S. 36:405. Deviation from this policy must be approved by the Deputy Secretary.

## II. PURPOSE:

To ensure that youth and staff live and work in a controlled environment which maintains infection control standards to monitor, evaluate, treat and contain the spread of infestations, bacterial, and viral infections (communicable and contagious diseases) and to supplement LSU/HSC's health care policy as it relates to youth.

## III. APPLICABILITY:

Persons employed by Youth Services (YS), those who are under contract with YS, volunteers and all youth in secure facilities. The Undersecretary or designee, Assistant Secretary, Deputy Assistant Secretaries, Facility Directors, Regional Managers, and designated health care authorities are responsible for ensuring the implementation and continued adherence to this policy. The Deputy Secretary, Facility Directors and Regional Managers are responsible for conveying the contents of this policy to employees and/or youth.

## IV. DEFINITIONS:

***Amniotic fluid*** - the fluid surrounding the unborn baby in the womb.

***Bloodborne Pathogens*** - pathogenic microorganisms present in human blood, which may cause disease in humans, including Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Other pathogenic microorganisms may be identified or present during acute phases of other infectious diseases.

***Body fluids -***

Precaution body fluids - PBF (known to transmit HIV and hepatitis viruses):

Blood and other bodily fluids containing visible blood;  
Semen;  
Vaginal secretions;  
Cerebrospinal fluid;  
Synovial fluid;  
Pleural fluid;  
Peritoneal fluid;  
Pericardial fluid; and  
Amniotic fluid.

Type I non-precaution body fluids (considered PBF if they contain visible blood):

Feces;  
Urine; and  
Vomit.

Type II non-precaution body fluids (considered PBF if they contain visible blood):

Nasal secretions;  
Saliva;  
Sputum;  
Sweat; and  
Tears.

***Cerebrospinal fluid*** - fluid found around the brain and the spinal cord.

***Communicable/Contagious*** - spread by direct or indirect contact.

***Contamination*** - the presence of PBF or Type 1 non-PBF on a surface or piece of clothing.

***Hepatitis A*** - an infectious disease of the liver which is caused by a virus which has been designated as the Hepatitis Virus Type A.

***Hepatitis B*** - an infectious disease of the liver which is caused by a virus which has been designated as the Hepatitis Virus Type B.

***Hepatitis C*** - an infectious disease of the liver which is caused by a virus which has been designated as the Hepatitis Virus Type C (formerly known as non-A, non-B hepatitis).

**HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)** - the virus that causes immunosuppression resulting in any number of opportunistic infections and/or diseases and detected through blood tests. Blood, vaginal fluid, and semen are usual modes of transmission of this virus.

**Infectious disease** - any disease caused by the presence of bacteria, protozoa, viruses, or other parasites in the body. The disease may or may not be communicable/contagious (i.e., transmitted from person to person).

**Lesion** - a break in the skin, a cut, or a scrape.

**Mucosal** - pertaining to the mucous membrane.

**Mucous membrane** - the smooth, moist skin found lining the inside of the mouth, nose, vagina, eye socket, etc.

**Perinatal** - pertaining to or occurring in the period shortly before and after birth.

**Peritoneal fluid** - fluid from the abdomen.

**Pleural fluid** - fluid surrounding the lungs or in the chest.

**Saliva** - spit.

**Semen** - the fluid which is discharged from the penis during ejaculation.

**Sputum** - fluid that is coughed up from the lungs.

**Synovial fluid** - fluid from any joint.

**Vaginal secretions** - fluid normally found in the vagina that is secreted by vaginal glands.

**Venipuncture** - introduction of a needle into a vein.

## V. POLICY:

- A. It is the Deputy Secretary's policy that written plans shall be maintained by the responsible health authority (LSUHSC) to address the management of infectious, communicable and contagious diseases, including guidelines to contain and/or eliminate the spread of infestations, bacterial, and viral infections.

- B. These plans shall include procedures for prevention, disinfection of the physical plant, kitchen areas, and equipment used in living and work areas, standardization of laundry processes and cleaning methods, education, identification, surveillance, immunization (when applicable), treatment, follow-up, medical isolation of infectious cases (when indicated), and reporting requirements to applicable local, State, and Federal agencies.
- C. A multi-disciplinary team shall be formed at each secure facility to review and discuss communicable/contagious diseases and infection control activities.
  - This team shall include clinical, security and administrative representatives; and
  - The team shall meet at least quarterly.
- D. Appropriate protective supplies shall be available for use as needed.
- E. Counseling will be available to all persons who request such services regarding their concerns about communicable/contagious diseases, including ways to prevent the spread of the diseases to others
- F. Any youth who is involved in an incident in which another person is potentially exposed to an infectious disease by the throwing of feces, urine, blood, saliva, any form of human waste, or bodily fluid on the other person shall be appropriately tested to determine whether the youth is infected with an infectious disease.
- G. The Deputy Secretary may authorize the testing of an employee for communicable/contagious diseases at State expense when such testing is in the best interest of YS.

**VI. PROCEDURES:**

- A. General Infection Control Guidelines
  - 1. Hand-washing and personal hygiene - Most bacteria and viruses are transmitted through hand-to-hand contact. Staff and youth should be taught and continually reminded of the importance of hand-washing. Adequate hand-washing facilities shall be available for staff and youth. Hand-washing soap shall be available.

To prevent skin disease all youth should practice good personal hygiene, including frequent showers. Youth should avoid touching wounds or the drainage of others and should wash their hands as soon as possible after touching wounds or contaminated dressings or clothes. The practice of hand-washing items of clothing in common sinks, or elsewhere, is prohibited.

2. Physical plant - all youth living areas will be cleaned on a regular basis with a disinfectant such as 1:10 bleach. (All chemicals used for disinfection will be effective in killing pathologic bacteria and viruses.) This cleaning will be documented as to frequency, areas cleaned, and chemicals used. Individual living spaces, i.e., cells or beds should be cleaned whenever the person occupying the space changes.
3. Laundry - minimum temperatures will be monitored on all washing machines. The recommended temperature for wash water per the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is 160° F or 71° C for a duration of 25 minutes unless the wash system being used specifies a different temperature. A disinfectant (either a detergent and/or powdered bleach on colored clothes and a liquid bleach on whites) will be used as part of the wash or rinse cycle.
4. Kitchen - kitchen areas shall be cleaned with an approved disinfectant. Garbage bins shall be covered. Head covers shall be worn during food service; gloves shall be worn to handle food during direct food contact. Hand-washing shall be diligently mandated for all kitchen workers. Dishwasher temperature shall be at least 180° F for the rinse cycle or at a temperature in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines if a sanitizer is used during the rinse cycle.
5. Equipment - equipment shall be cleaned on a routine basis with disinfectant. Equipment that is used on a youth shall be cleaned with a disinfectant between uses.
6. Medical isolation - when admitted to an infirmary, patients with contagious infections shall be placed in medical isolation at the discretion of a licensed health care professional.
7. Monitoring - a system for trending, monitoring, and containment of contagious infectious diseases will be established by the responsible health care authority.

B. Body Fluid Precautions for PBF and Type I non-PBF

1. General Infection Control Guidelines for all Employees and Youth:

- a. Gloves should be worn when it is anticipated there will be contact with PBF and Type I non-PBF fluids.
- b. Spills shall be cleaned up as soon as possible.
- c. Following a spill, contaminated surfaces should be cleaned with freshly prepared 1:10 chlorine bleach solution or comparable disinfectant.
- d. Items soaked with referenced body fluids that are disposable shall be placed in a sturdy red plastic bag, sealed, and marked "Blood and Body Fluid Precautions". Disposal of the bag shall be in compliance with the State Sanitary Code - State of Louisiana Chapter XXVII - "Management of Refuse, Infectious Waste, Medical Waste, and Potentially Infectious Biomedical Waste".
- e. Staff and youth cleaning up spills or handling contaminated items should wear disposable gloves during the clean-up and wash their hands after such activities, even if they were wearing gloves.
- f. Contaminated clothes and linens shall be placed in a plastic bag, marked "Contaminated Laundry" and laundered. All persons handling contaminated clothing and linens shall wear gloves while doing so.
- g. Staff and youth whose clothes have been contaminated shall be provided a change of clothes and an opportunity to wash as soon as possible, or discard if indicated.
- h. Persons who have had a significant exposure (e.g. splashing into the eye, mouth, or an open lesion; puncture with a contaminated item; or a human bite) should be evaluated by health care staff regarding the exposure and potential post-exposure prophylactic treatment and follow-up recommendations.
- i. Employees and youth should be encouraged to cover all open wounds or cuts, especially when handling PBF and Type I non-PBF.
- j. Pregnant women are not known to be at any greater risk to contract these infectious diseases than women who are not pregnant; however, if a woman develops such infections during pregnancy, the infant is at risk for contracting the disease due to perinatal transmission. Because of this increased risk, pregnant women should be especially familiar with, and strictly adhere to, precautions to minimize the risk of transmission.

**C. General Infection Control Guidelines for Custody and Other Staff**

**1. Searches:**

- a. Make sure all open wounds and sores are covered with clean bandages to prevent possible exposure to blood;
- b. Wear protective devices when there is contact with PBF or Type I non-PBF on a youth, clothing, linen, or any other contaminated objects;
- c. Avoid needle sticks or punctures with any sharp objects (e.g., knives or razors that may be contaminated with blood); and
- d. Never blindly place hands in areas where there may be sharp objects that could cut or puncture the skin, and be particularly alert for such objects during searches.

**2. Use of Intervention:**

- a. Employee shall wear protective gloves if it is anticipated that there will be contact with PBF or Type I non-PBF;
- b. When custody staff is not able to anticipate potential contact with PBF or Type I non-PBF (i.e., when breaking up a fight) and there is no time to put on gloves, he must handle the emergency and then immediately:
  - 1) Thoroughly wash hands and all other areas of the body which were exposed to contamination;
  - 2) Remove contaminated clothes and linens and place them in an appropriately marked plastic bag to launder;
  - 3) Employees and youth whose clothes have been contaminated with PBF or Type I non-PBF of another person shall be provided a change of clothes and an opportunity to wash as soon as possible; and
  - 4) If exposure has occurred, the employee shall be promptly evaluated by health care staff.

**3. Procedures for First Aid and CPR:**

- a. First aid kits will be available in designated areas based on need as determined by the designated health care authority; and
- b. Appropriate ventilation devices will be included with the first aid kits for use by designated trained personnel to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

4. Precautions for Contaminated Equipment or Spills:

- a. All equipment contaminated with PBF or Type I non-PBF shall be initially cleaned with soap and water. A freshly prepared 1:10 solution of bleach (one part bleach mixed with nine equal parts of water), or a comparable disinfectant, should then be used to disinfect the area by wiping all exposed surfaces.
- b. Restraint equipment (i.e., handcuffs) which potentially could be contaminated with PBF or Type I non-PBF should be similarly washed and then disinfected.
- c. Each appropriate work area shall be provided with disposable gloves for use by staff and youth when it is necessary to handle or clean up PBF or Type I non-PBF. The gloves can be disposed of in the normal trash unless they are contaminated with PBF or Type I non-PBF. They then shall be disposed of according to the facility's infection control procedures, along with all other materials used in the cleanup process.

D. Infection Control Education and Training

1. Employee Orientation:

- a. All new employees shall receive some training and introduction to communicable, contagious and infectious diseases.
- b. Documentation that the employee received the orientation shall be retained in his personnel and/or training file.
- c. On-going employee in-service training will be provided at each facility annually.

2. Youth Orientation:

- a. All new youth entering the system will receive orientation focused on communicable/contagious diseases.
- b. Documentation that the youth received this orientation shall be placed and maintained in each youth's case file.
- c. Continuing education regarding bloodborne infectious diseases and other communicable/contagious diseases shall be conducted annually by the responsible health care authority at each facility.



**E. Management of Biohazardous Waste**

Each facility shall have a plan for the management of biohazardous waste and for the disinfection and sterilization of medical and dental equipment.

**F. Transferring of Youth**

Youth with active Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) infections will not be transferred in most situations. If the youth has any boils or open draining wounds clinically suggestive of a staph infection they will be treated at the facility where they reside and transfers, when indicated, may occur with medical clearance by the attending physician. Exceptions will not be allowed without the approval of the Deputy Secretary or designee, (and such approval will not be given absent the need for emergency transfer due to mental health, medical, custody, or other urgent considerations.)

**Previous Regulation/Policy Number:** N/A

**Previous Effective Date:** N/A

**Attachments/References:**